

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 AF-10

DRC-01 OMB-01 /145 W

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R 260541Z JUL 74 ZDK

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5959

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1506

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: GOI DEFENSE MINISTER PERES VISITS WEST BANK

1. SUMMARY. ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER PERES REPORTEDLY TOLD WEST BANK DIGNITARIES AT HEBRON JULY 25 THAT ISRAEL AIMS AT DIVISION OF FUNCTIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARABS ON WEST BANK, WITH VIEW TO SAFEGUARDING SECURITY AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND ARABS. PRESS REPORTS HE INDICATED ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO HAVE LOCAL ARAB POPULATION AND JORDAN SHARE RESPONSIBILITY IN CONSOLIDATING ISRAELI-ARAB COEXISTENCE IN AREA. HEBRON MAYOR JAABARI URGED ARABS TO ADOPT UNIFIED STAND ON GENEVA CONFERENCE AND PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS, ACCORDING TO PRESS, SO THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE TOWARDS SOLUTION OF AREA'S PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING VISIT TO HEBRON ON WEST BANK JULY 24, GOI DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES IS REPORTED IN PRESS AS HAVING TOLD MAYOR AND GROUP OF LOCAL DIGNITARIES THAT ISRAEL AIMED AT DIVISION OF FUNCTION.

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TIONS ON WEST BANK UNDER WHICH IDF WOULD WARD OFF DANGER FROM

EXTREMISTS-DANGER THAT THREATENED JORDAN AND WEST BANK AS WELL AS ISRAEL - WHILE LOCAL INHABITANTS WOULD ADMINISTER INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE IS QUOTED AS EMPHASIZING GOI DETERMINATION TO ACT AGAINST ALL "EXTREMISTS" AND "SUBVERSION." PERES ALSO REPORTEDLY AFFIRMED ISRAELI POLICY OF OPEN BRIDGES AND STRENGTHENING OF "GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION" BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND ARABS AND INDICATED ISRAEL WANTED LOCAL ARABS AND JORDAN TO COOPERATE IN CONSOLIDATING ISRAEL-ARAB COEXISTENCE IN AREA STRETCHING FROM THE "JORDAN TO THE MEDITERRANEAN."

3. HEBRON MAYOR, SHEIKH JAABARI, WITH WHOM PERES ALSO MET PRIVATELY, CALLED FOR ARAB NATION, ESPECIALLY STATES PARTICIPATING IN GENEVA CONFERENCE, TO "UNIT ITS WORD" TO HELP FIND SOLUTIONS TO "OUR PROBLEMS". HE SUPPORTED PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA AND, ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM POST ADVOCATED DELEGATES FROM WEST BANK, GAZA AND PLO AS "OBSERVERS" ALONGSIDE JORDAN, EGYPT AND SYRIA AND SUGGESTED WEST BANK AND GAZA LEADERS MEET TO NAME SUCH DELEGATES.

4. COMMENT. SOME PRESS COVERAGE PLAYS UP PERES' STATEMENTS ON DIVISION OF FUNCTIONS ON WEST BANK. VISIT, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO

HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IN PATTERN OF THOSE BY FORMER DEFMIN DAYAN -- DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR WEST BANKERS TO AIR COMPLAINTS AND DISCUSS LOCAL PROBLEMS AND FOR MINISTER TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND WEST BANKERS. FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH HEBRONITES PERES (ALSO IN DAYAN PATTERN) VISITED KIRYAT ARBA AND HEARD REQUESTS FROM JEWISH SETTLERS THERE FOR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND TOWNSHIP STATUS.

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